

Members

Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson
Sen. Vi Simpson
Rep. Charlie Brown
Rep. Cindy Noe
Amy Cook-Lurvey
Richard Culver
David M. Giles, M.D.
Galen Goode
Gloria Kardee
Bryan Lett
Dr. Loretta Kroin



INDIANA COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 11, 2003
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson; Sen. Vi Simpson; Rep. Charlie Brown; Rep. Cindy Noe; Amy Cook-Lurvey; Richard Culver; David M. Giles, M.D.; Galen Goode; Gloria Kardee; Bryan Lett; Dr. Loretta Kroin.

Members Absent: None.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Senator Lawson called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. and asked the members to introduce themselves.

2. Discussion of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

(a) Mr. Robert N. Postlewait, Member of the President's Commission: Mr.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Postlewait provided the members of the Commission with written testimony. (Exhibit 1) He explained to the Commission that the President's Commission worked for a year and a half on their study. The study is closely related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 1999 Surgeon General's report on mental health. The last Presidential commission on mental health was twenty-five years ago during the Carter Administration.

The President's Commission identified six goals with recommendations for each goal. Those are outlined in Exhibit 1. Mr. Postlewait stated that there are twice as many suicides in the United States as there are homicides. One in two persons who needs mental health services is not receiving services, and it is estimated that the loss in productivity caused by mental illness approaches \$60 billion dollars. He said that changing attitudes about mental illness is critical to making progress.

The report is currently being analyzed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) which will then prioritize the findings and present them to Tommy Thompson.

In response to a question, Mr. Postlewait indicated that the report did not deal with funding issues related to the recommendations. They dealt with the "what" and not the "how". There was discussion on funding issues due to the impact of administrative silos relating to funding issues. It is difficult to shift funds among programs. Budgeting silos are a major issue that have been designated for further study.

There was also discussion on the need to educate law enforcement and health care personnel concerning the needs of persons with mental illness. During the discussion, Mr. Postlewait said that further work needs to be done as a follow up to the report on metrics, prioritization, and development of an action plan. The Commission also discussed with Mr. Postlewait the need to deal effectively with cultural issues such as attracting more persons from minorities to careers providing services to persons with mental illness.

The Commission discussed the issues surrounding the gap of between fifteen and twenty years in scientific progress in the mental health area and actual implementation of new types of services. The need to get past bureaucratic barriers and the need for cultural changes in the way mental health treatments are considered essential to closing the gap according to Mr. Postlewait.

Mr. Postlewait agreed that an important part of the process in reforming the mental health system is to spend more time working with and training health care providers to deal with mental health issues when persons come to them for physical health care problems. To address issues of funding silos, an inter-agency council including the Veterans' Administration, Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Education and Labor in addition to Health and Human Services is being recommended.

(b) Suzanne Clifford, Director, Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA), Family and Social Services Administration: Ms. Clifford presented the Commission with written comments which are an assessment of Indiana's mental health system. (Exhibit 2) She stated that the issues and problems in Indiana are no different from those of any other state. On October 22 a new prevention plan for the Division will be rolled out. Ms. Clifford emphasized the need to partner across all lines of service delivery. Ms. Clifford told the Commission that the closure of facilities and discontinuation of services by private providers of mental services means that more persons will be moved to the state system in order to receive services. The demand for services is greater than

the supply. There is no waiting list for persons to receive services from DMHA. Changes in the demand mean that existing service providers need to spread the services thinner. DMHA is also aware that not all of the children needing services are being served within the DMHA system. The Departments of Education and Correction are serving children with mental health needs.

There was a great deal of discussion on the need to meet the housing and employment needs of persons with mental illness. In answer to questions, Ms. Clifford indicated that the DMHA has not included any proposals to help reduce the funding silos in the mental health area with their legislative proposals.

III. Discussion of Topics for Consideration by the Commission During the Interim:

(a) Steve McCaffrey, Mental Health Association of Indiana: Mr. McCaffrey provided testimony updating the Commission on legislation considered in the 2003 Session of the General Assembly and presenting the Association's goals for the 2004 Session. (Exhibit 3)

(b) Mr. Joe Vanable, President, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill: Mr. Vanable stated that the President's report did not address the need for additional funding. He emphasized the following four issues. His first concern is the large number of persons with mental illness in prison and the need to divert those persons to the mental health system with the funds following them. His second concern is the need to know that funds are spent on effective treatment. Since funding is so meager, the state needs to know that the funds that are available are being spent in a way that helps. Thirdly, he thinks we need to focus on as much community-based programming as possible. While there will always be some persons who need hospitalization, the majority can be served in the community. The range of services for persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities does not exist for persons with mental illness. Finally, he emphasized the need to provide access to medication as prescribed by the individual's psychiatrist.

During the discussion that followed Mr. Vanable's presentation, the need to identify payment for services and for followup for persons who are diverted from the criminal justice system to mental health programs was discussed.

(c) Mr. Jim Jones, Indiana Council of Mental Health Centers: Mr. Jones discussed the need for quality care, safe places to live, and good work opportunities. As the state receives more and more money from Medicaid, services are limited to those for which Medicaid will provide reimbursement. There was discussion on the impact of changes in Medicaid policies like the new policies on spend down and the fact that Medicaid does not pay for housing.

IV. Discussion of Additional Meeting Dates: The next meetings will be:

September 8 at 1:00 in Room 130 of the State House
 October 6 at 11:00 at Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center
 October 20 at 10:00 in Room 233 of the State House
 October 27 at 10:00 in Room 233 of the State House

V. Additional Topics: The Commission discussed the following topics as potential topics to be considered at future meetings:

- Discussions with the Department of Education, the Department of Correction, and

the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning on how their programs, policies, and funding impact on mental health services

- Discussions concerning seventy-two hour commitments
- Impact of changes in Medicaid policy on the delivery system
- Implications of the need to relinquish parental rights in order to obtain services
- Implications of expelling children from school
- Interaction with the criminal justice system
- Use of Ritalin

VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 P.M.